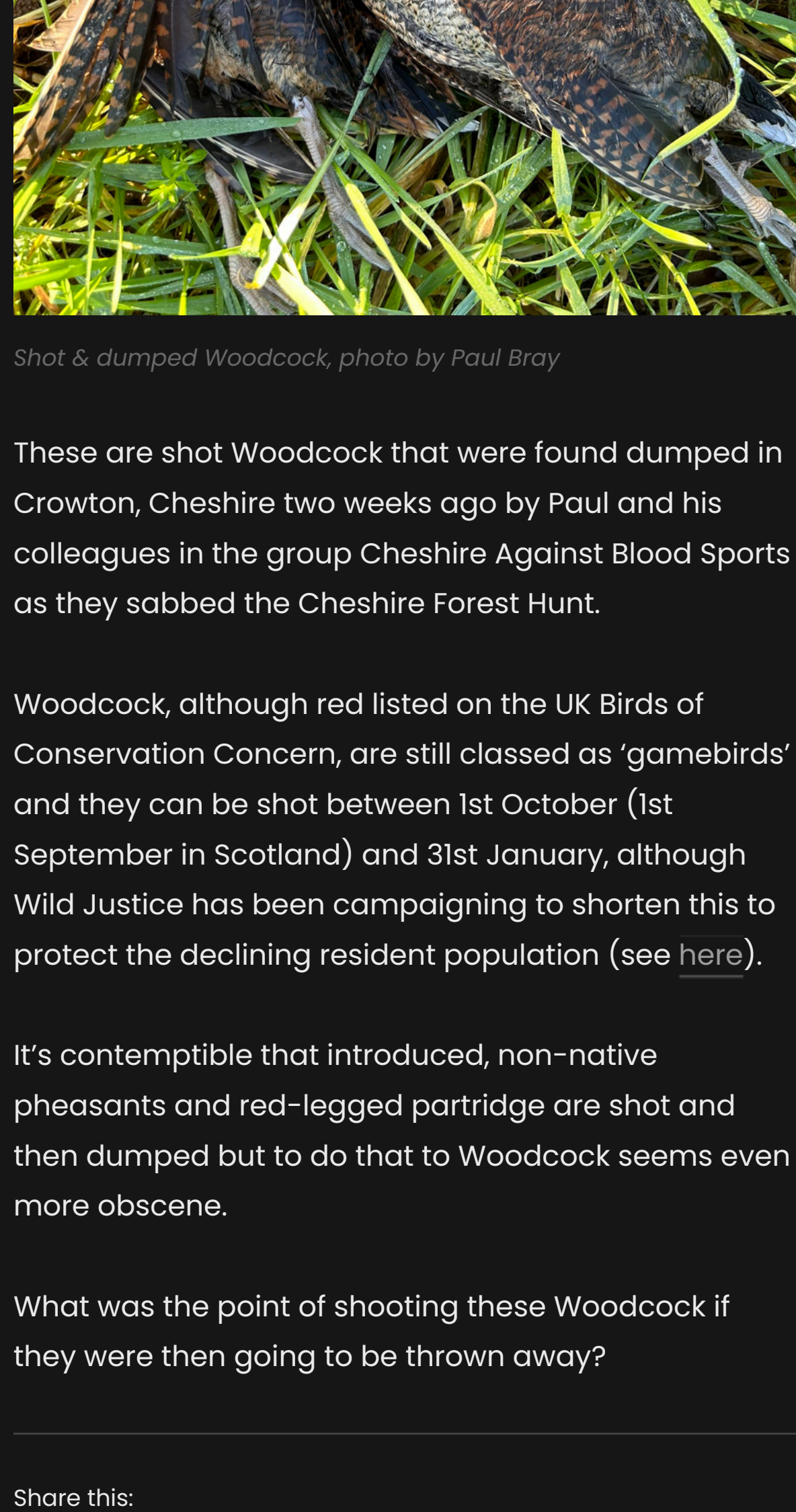


Raptor Persecution UK

Woodcock shot and dumped in Cheshire

RaptorPersecutionUK
January 20, 2024
News

In response to yesterday's blog where I wrote about the latest reported incident of the illegal fly-tipping of shot gamebirds (pheasants in Gloucestershire – [here](#)), blog reader Paul Bray posted the following image on Twitter:



Shot & dumped Woodcock, photo by Paul Bray

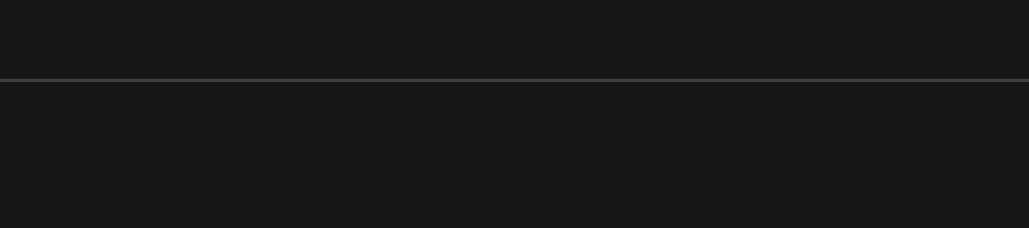
These are shot Woodcock that were found dumped in Crowton, Cheshire two weeks ago by Paul and his colleagues in the group Cheshire Against Blood Sports as they sabbed the Cheshire Forest Hunt.

Woodcock, although red listed on the UK Birds of Conservation Concern, are still classed as 'gamebirds' and they can be shot between 1st October (1st September in Scotland) and 31st January, although Wild Justice has been campaigning to shorten this to protect the declining resident population ([see here](#)).

It's contemptible that introduced, non-native pheasants and red-legged partridge are shot and then dumped but to do that to Woodcock seems even more obscene.

What was the point of shooting these Woodcock if they were then going to be thrown away?

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9 thoughts on "Woodcock shot and dumped in Cheshire"

Jeremy Moore

January 20, 2024 at 10:43 am

I just can't imagine who would even consider shooting such extraordinary creatures as woodcock, let alone in such quantities that they can be dumped.

Reply

tperry

January 20, 2024 at 10:49 am

"Obscene" definitely, and also arrogant!

Reply

Richard Ortyl

January 20, 2024 at 10:52 am

If anymore evidence was needed of how the killing industry needs to be closed down its the relentless persecution of birds of prey and red listed species. These pathetic morons do not have a soul.

Reply

Adrian Johnstone.

January 20, 2024 at 10:55 am

Stop shooting Woodcock, Snipe, English Partridge, even just for alternate seasons to start with ie. shoot every other year to increase their chances.

Reply

John Martin

January 20, 2024 at 11:06 am

Absolutely appalling. I wouldn't be surprised if the pin feathers had been removed to disappal in a hatband or similar as a shooter to demonstrate the skill of the shooter. I'll wager that many game shooters will be highly embarrassed to see this.

Reply

Alan Busson

January 20, 2024 at 11:14 am

Woodcock are such beautiful birds. Why kill beauty and dump it?

Reply

Mr Greer Hart

January 20, 2024 at 12:15 pm

Last week, on a private nature reserve in Argyll three Continental tourist shooters intruded with shotguns to blast Woodcocks. A local farmer ordered them off his land, and that of the private nature reserve. Their armaments had been given to them by their host, without warning them of offending local landowners, who were anti-game shooting. The territory involved also hosts Hen Harriers and other protected species, in season. I share the disgust shown by this exposure of dead Woodcock in Cheshire, as another example of the casualness of those who find killing wildlife for sport. Such people are not beyond redemption, as there are examples of people who were so inclined, who recanted by denouncing their former lust to kill wildlife and introduced game birds. Did Peter Scott not sell his prized fowling pieces when he was employed by the RSPB? Many a butterfly collector has become a conservationist, and was Fauna and Flora International not founded by the Penitential Butcher, former African big game hunters, who had felt ashamed over their killing of Elephants, Rhinos, Lions etc? Former whaling countries, as Scotland once was, have become active as protectors of cetaceans.

Reply

sag

January 20, 2024 at 1:00 pm

Is it likely that the litter lout was someone's guest at an organised shoot and was handed them, to get away? Not being interested in or able to pluck and prepare them, the guest dumped them on their way home?

That might explain the blue cabletie?

With local publicity, the shoot will recognise the tie. And probably say nowt.

Reply

spaghnum morose

January 20, 2024 at 1:18 pm

The cynical truth is that they have served their purpose. If you poke about among the shooting media and well known websites that advertise shooting, you will get what I mean. If a shoot opening as a business, as most are, can offer chance of woodcock or some evening flighting of wild ducks, etc then they stand out a bit among their rival shoots that just offer the usual boring reared pheasant, red-legs, mallard. If your ground holds woodcock (usually by sheer luck) you are offering a little bit more than the norm, and will fill your bookings earlier, and run a better business. What happens to the dead birds worth barely a couple of quid if that, is not really a worry in business terms. Sad but true.

Reply

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